

## Another Letter on Trades Unionism.

By H. I. M.

### NEED FOR REVOLUTIONARY CONTROL.

The insurgent element in The American Trades Union movement is growing. The "Left" expression is gaining in popularity and is being subscribed to daily by ever increasing numbers of formerly deluded Craft Unionists.

Such rebel movements in any organization are eventually forced to face the necessity of finding means to achieve unity of action. In time to come, no doubt, there will be a national organization of the insurgents in The A. F. of L. for just this purpose. So far, however, this movement is restricted largely to guerrilla activity or mere assent to the correctness of its position.

But already there is considerable thought being given to tactics and methods of control. Chief among these is the question regarding the efficacy of capturing executive office.

Some, arguing from the premise that the structural organization is antique and inefficient, claim that the first point of control should be the legislative organs of the trade unions for the purpose of correcting its organizational disadvantages. To be sure, the conventions are fortresses that must be stormed and captured before success is assured, but this does not prove that executive offices

should not be taken wherever possible.

The executive offices in the A. F. of L. are vested with almost autocratic power. In view of the enormous and widespread influence of Gompers and his crowd, it is apparent that what restrictions there are were made to give the offices a tint of democracy.

One of the principal means used by the present leadership for retention of control is, a la bourgeois, strict and watchful regulation of the channel of information and protest i. e. control of official publications and committees. What valuable work could be done in such places by a radical who would reverse the iniquitous methods, used by the bureaucracy!

Many instances have come to attention where, though the left movement is not sufficiently developed to control the labor councils, there is a possibility of electing one of their number to an executive place. There should be no hesitation in taking advantage of such opportunities. If the elected can do nothing else he can at least use his influence to expose the underhanded methods of the so called leaders and to make popular the ideas for which the insurrectionists are fighting, to wit: the transformation of the A. F. of L. from a loose federation of docile and conservative Craft unions into a revolutionary movement for the overthrow of Capitalism.

**MOSCOW**—An electric train invented by the Russian engineer Maklonin has beaten the world's record for distance. It covered the 150 versts from Petrograd to Moscow in about twelve hours without recharging.

The superior court at Seattle has granted a restraining order against the local police department enjoining them from interfering with the publication and circulation of the Industrial Worker, organ of the I. W. W.

Suit was brought by H. S. Kane, former editor when the police placed a padlock on the plant where the paper was printed.

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